

J.M.J

Rensselaer, Monday morning

August 27, 1888

My Dear Father Stephan:

Your letter is just recd. Do not worry for us. The boys are contented and happy, and I shall keep them so, even if it does cost a few dollars.

9 Menominees came Wednesday, fine boys—good looking—Malo with 15 boys Thursday.

Friday I took all the boys to the Jasper County Fair—spent all the afternoon. Went in the fair free. Boys saw everything in the fair races included – were delighted.

Bought marbles—ball club—got them playing ball. Had them write letters home. I read the letters before they were sent to the P.O. They sent a good account home.

We give them good food and plenty of it. They are satisfied. We have some smoked beef and I bought some fresh beef in Rensselaer. Sisters could not bake bread enough on the small stove so I bought bread in Rensselaer.

The range has come, and I telegraphed for a man from Chicago to come and put it up. Basement finished, or nearly so. Blinds on most of the building already. First coat of plaster on boys' dormitory goes on today. Carpenters are laying floor in the story above basement.

Just near the end of haying. We thresh our rye day after tomorrow. Barn Commencing today. Let out on contract for \$1900. This does not include painting. There are no ventilators marked in the plan, but I will get them on, also I will put a track and hay carrier in the ridges which are not in the plans. These extras will not cost much.

In school building the floor in upper story is single and had to be laid before plastering. I bought oil and oiled it before plastering so as to preserve it. I oil all floors as soon as laid to keep them clean. All work going on fast.

Important

We have no books. The boys have no change of shirts or any other clothing. I told them to keep on what they have and be patient till you come and they would all get shirts etc. etc. Does Kauff have to put in the school desks! It runs in my mind that it is in his contract. I shall ask. If we must put them in, we must soon attend to it. Boys are anxious for school to commence. Let

Mr. Lusk look at the school books he has. If there are 3rd 4th & 5th Readers etc. they should be sent at once. The books did not come yet.

Records show this is from Georg L. Willard